

MEET YOUR 2026

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS OFFICERS



SPECIAL EDITION



ISSUE #5

JULY 2026

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Congratulations to the 2026-2027 Department of Texas Leadership Team

The Department of Texas Marine Corps League gathered in San Marcos for another successful Department Convention, where Marines and FMF Corpsmen from across our great state came together to conduct the business of the League, renew friendships, and elect the leaders who will guide us through the coming year.

On behalf of Boots Across Texas, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected and appointed Department of Texas leadership team for 2026-2027. These Marines have accepted the responsibility of leading our Department and ensuring that the Marine Corps League continues to fulfill its mission of preserving the traditions of the Corps, serving veterans, supporting our communities, and caring for Marines and their families.

Department of Texas Line Officers

- Sean Downey – Department Commandant
- David Rodriguez – Department Senior Vice Commandant
- Gus Kawell – Department Junior Vice Commandant
- Clyde Lemon – Department Judge Advocate
- Greg Sumner – Adjutant/Paymaster
- Eddie Sanchez – Sergeant-at-Arms
- William Sterling – Chaplain

Leadership within the Marine Corps League is built upon service, dedication, and a willingness to step forward when called upon. Each of these Marines brings valuable experience, commitment, and passion to their respective roles, and I am confident they will serve the Department of Texas with distinction.

I would also like to recognize and thank all members who stepped forward as candidates during this election cycle. The strength of our organization lies in Marines who are willing to serve, lead, and contribute to the continued success of the League. Every member who offered their time and talents demonstrated the very spirit that makes the Marine Corps League a respected and enduring organization.

As we begin a new administrative year, let us unite behind our newly selected leadership team and continue building upon the successes of those who served before them. Together, we can strengthen our detachments, grow our membership, support our communities, and ensure that the values and traditions of the United States Marine Corps remain alive and well throughout Texas.

Congratulations once again to our 2026-2027 Department of Texas leadership team. We wish you every success as you lead our Department forward.

Semper Fidelis,

German C. Garza
Editor, Boots Across Texas
Department of Texas Marine Corps League



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GERMAN GARZA

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

TINA HARVEY

EDITORIALS

RANDY THOMAS



CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

TINA HARVEY

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

RANDY THOMAS



LEADERSHIP NOTES

DEPT. OF TEXAS COMMANDANT

On June 13, 2026, I was deeply honored to be elected as the 35th Commandant of the Department of Texas during our annual Department Convention in San Marcos, Texas.

My journey in the Marine Corps League has been one of service, leadership, and dedication.

In 2018, I founded the Rio Grande Valley Detachment #1456 in Edinburg, where I proudly served and now hold the title of Junior Past Commandant.

Throughout the years, I have had the privilege of serving our Department in several capacities, including Web Sergeant (2018–Present),

Director of Conventions (2018–2021), Adjutant/Paymaster (2020–2022), Junior Vice Commandant (2022–2024), and most recently, Senior Vice Commandant (2024–2026).

Beyond the Department level, I am honored to serve on the National Bylaws Committee and as the Webmaster for the National Conventions Committee. These opportunities have allowed me to work alongside dedicated Marines and Associate Members from across the nation, all committed to strengthening our League.

I live in McAllen with my wonderful wife, Rachelle, and have been blessed to share ten years of marriage with her. Professionally, I work as a Marketing Consultant, but my passion for serving our Marine Corps League family remains one of my greatest commitments.



As your Department Commandant, my door is always open. Whether you have questions, ideas, concerns, or simply need assistance, I encourage you to reach out. Together, we will continue to strengthen our Department, support our detachments, honor our Marines, and uphold the values that make the Marine Corps League such an outstanding organization.

I look forward to serving each of you over the next year.

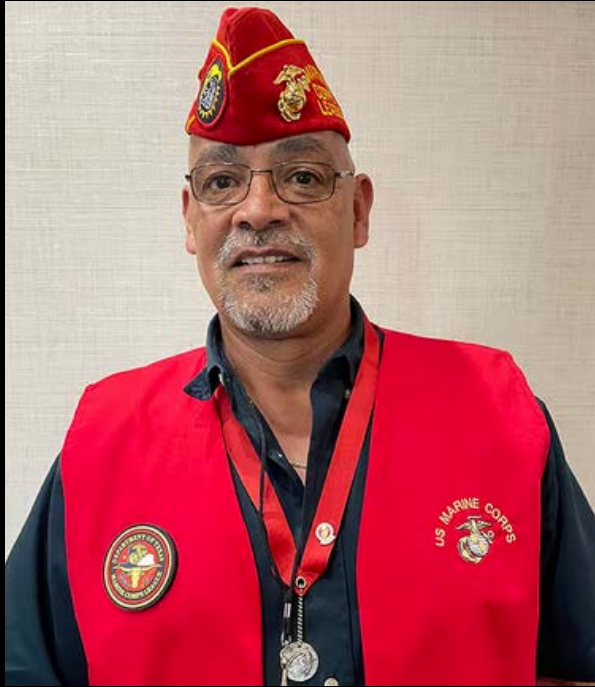
Semper Fidelis,
Sean Downey

35th Department Commandant
Department of Texas, Marine Corps League
Email: commandant@txmcl.org
Cell: (956) 566-0382

LEADERSHIP NOTES

SENIOR VICE

David Rodriguez
Senior Vice Commandant



Congratulations to David Rodriguez – Senior Vice Commandant, Department of Texas

Congratulations to David Rodriguez on his election as the Senior Vice Commandant of the Department of Texas, Marine Corps League for the 2026–2027 administrative year.

David's election reflects his unwavering commitment to the Marine Corps League, its members, and the values of honor, courage, and commitment. As Senior Vice Commandant, he will play a vital role in supporting the Department Commandant, strengthening detachments across Texas, and advancing the League's mission of serving Marines, veterans, their families, and our communities.

We congratulate David on this well-deserved achievement and wish him continued success as he helps lead the Department of Texas into another outstanding year of service.

Semper Fidelis!

LEADERSHIP NOTES

JUNIOR VICE

Gustave Kawell
Junior Vice Commandant



Congratulations to Gustave Kawell – Junior Vice Commandant, Department of Texas

Congratulations to Gustave Kawell on his election as the Junior Vice Commandant of the Department of Texas, Marine Corps League for the 2026–2027 administrative year.

Gustave's dedication to the Marine Corps League and his commitment to serving Marines, veterans, and their families have earned him the trust and confidence of the membership. As Junior Vice Commandant, he will play an important role in supporting membership growth, strengthening detachments throughout Texas, and advancing the mission of the Marine Corps League.

We congratulate Gustave on this well-deserved achievement and wish him great success as he begins this new chapter of leadership within the Department of Texas.

Semper Fidelis!

LEADERSHIP NOTES

ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER

Greg Sumner
Adjutant/Paymaster



Congratulations to Greg Sumner – Adjutant/Paymaster, Department of Texas

Congratulations to Greg Sumner on his appointment as Adjutant/Paymaster of the Department of Texas, Marine Corps League for the 2026–2027 administrative year.

Greg brings a wealth of experience, professionalism, and dedication to this vital position. As Adjutant/Paymaster, he will oversee the administrative and financial operations of the Department, ensuring the organization continues to serve its members with integrity, accountability, and efficiency. His commitment to the Marine Corps League and willingness to assist members across Texas make him an invaluable member of the Department leadership team.

We congratulate Greg on his continued service and wish him a successful year in supporting the Department of Texas and its membership.

Semper Fidelis!

LEADERSHIP NOTES

JUNIOR PAST COMMANDANT

Tony Poletti
Junior Past Commandant



Congratulations to Tony Poletti – Junior Past Commandant, Department of Texas

Congratulations to Tony Poletti as he assumes the role of Junior Past Commandant of the Department of Texas, Marine Corps League for the 2026–2027 administrative year.

Following a successful term as Department Commandant, Tony now continues to serve the Department by providing valuable guidance, experience, and mentorship to the newly elected leadership team. His dedication to the Marine Corps League and unwavering commitment to its members have helped strengthen the Department of Texas and advance the League's mission of preserving the traditions of the Marine Corps while serving veterans, their families, and our communities.

We thank Tony for his outstanding leadership and continued service, and we wish him continued success in his new role.

Semper Fidelis!

LEADERSHIP NOTES

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Clyde Lemon
Judge Advocate



Congratulations to Clyde Lemon – Judge Advocate, Department of Texas

Congratulations to Clyde Lemon on his election as Judge Advocate of the Department of Texas, Marine Corps League for the 2026–2027 administrative year.

As Judge Advocate, Clyde will provide legal guidance and counsel to the Department while helping ensure that its policies, procedures, and actions remain consistent with the National and Department bylaws. His knowledge, integrity, and commitment to the principles of the Marine Corps League make him an outstanding choice for this important position.

We congratulate Clyde on this well-deserved election and wish him continued success as he serves the Department of Texas and its members.

Semper Fidelis!

LEADERSHIP NOTES

SGT AT ARMS

Eduardo Sanchez
Sgt At Arms



Congratulations to Eduardo "Eddie" Sanchez on his election as Sergeant-at-Arms of the Department of Texas, Marine Corps League for the 2026–2027 administrative year.

As Sergeant-at-Arms, Eddie will play a vital role in maintaining order during Department meetings and ceremonies while upholding the traditions, customs, and decorum of the Marine Corps League. His dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving his fellow Marines and members make him an excellent addition to the Department leadership team.

We congratulate Eddie on this well-deserved achievement and wish him continued success as he serves the Department of Texas with honor and distinction.

Semper Fidelis!

LEADERSHIP NOTES

CHAPLAIN

William Sterling
Chaplain



Congratulations to William Sterling – Chaplain, Department of Texas

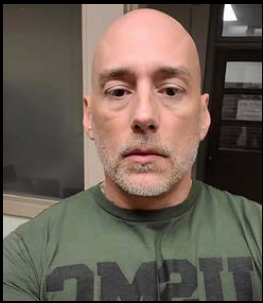
Congratulations to William Sterling on his election as Chaplain of the Department of Texas, Marine Corps League for the 2026–2027 administrative year.

As Department Chaplain, William will provide spiritual guidance, comfort, and support to members and their families while helping lead prayers and memorial observances throughout the year. His compassion, dedication, and commitment to the well-being of the Department's membership reflect the core values of the Marine Corps League and the spirit of service to others.

We congratulate William on this well-deserved election and wish him strength and success as he faithfully serves the Department of Texas and its members.

Semper Fidelis!

MEET YOUR DISTRICT VICE COMMANDANTS



Ryan Brundage
District 1 Vice Commandant



Trammel Davis
District 2 Vice Commandant



Robert Way
District 3 Vice Commandant



Sam Middlebrooks
District 4 Vice Commandant



Jimmy Baughman
District 5 Vice Commandant



Robert Hurtado
District 6 Vice Commandant



Rose Conkwright
District 7 Vice Commandant



OPEN
District 8 Vice Commandant



Kelly Smith
District 9 Vice Commandant

MEET YOUR APPOINTED OFFICERS



Sean Downey
Web Sergeant



Tina Harvey
MCLA Dept President
Director of Public Relations



Rick Russell
Compliance Officer



Belinda Sumner
Director of Conventions



Marcos Garcia
VSO



Mark Oldmixon
Southern Division Vice
Commandant



Paula Land
Assistant Southern Division
Vice Commandant



Roy Cuevas
Texas Pack Leader



Antonia Hurtado
Auxiliary Department
President



Jose Escarsega
Young Marines Liaison



German C Garza
Assistant Director of Public
Relations



Cory Dressler
Parliamentarian

MEET YOUR COMMITTEES

Activity Reports – David Rodriguez
Americanism – Deana Lopez
Auditor – Clyde Lemon
Auxiliary Liaison – Robert Hurtado
Awards – David Rodriguez
Budget and Finance – Greg Sumner
Bylaws and Resolution – Clyde Lemon
Cam Posey Scholarships – Paula Land
Chapel of the Four Chaplains – Charles Ynman

2026 Fall Conference Det Chair – Ryan Brundage
2027 Convention District Chair – Trammell Davis
2027 Fall Conference District Chair – Robert Hurtado
2028 Convention District Chair – Kelly Smith
Dept Credentials Committee – James Harvey
Convention Protocol – Tony Poletti
Marine of the Year – Charles Ynman

Marines for Life South (M4LS) – Sean Downey
Marines for Life North (M4LN) – Open
M4L Dept spokesman – Sean Downey
Marines Helping Marines – Open
Web Sergeant – Sean Downey



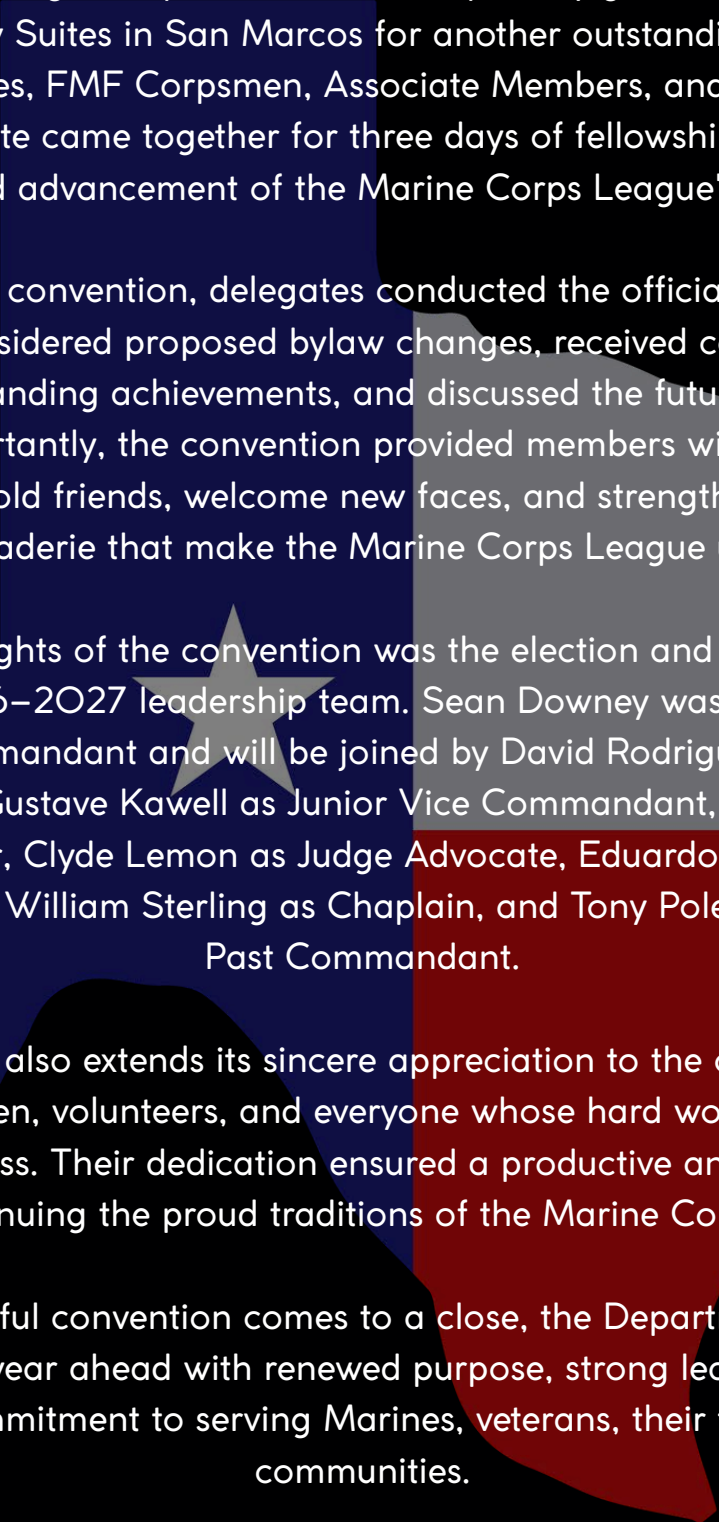
WELCOME TO

SAN MARCOS!

2026

JUNE
11-13

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS CONVENTION



The Marine Corps League Department of Texas proudly gathered June 11–13, 2026, at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos for another outstanding Department Convention. Marines, FMF Corpsmen, Associate Members, and Auxiliary members from across the state came together for three days of fellowship, business, and the continued advancement of the Marine Corps League's mission.

Throughout the convention, delegates conducted the official business of the Department, considered proposed bylaw changes, received committee reports, recognized outstanding achievements, and discussed the future direction of the League. More importantly, the convention provided members with an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, welcome new faces, and strengthen the bonds of camaraderie that make the Marine Corps League unique.

One of the highlights of the convention was the election and installation of the Department's 2026–2027 leadership team. Sean Downey was elected as the 35th Department Commandant and will be joined by David Rodriguez as Senior Vice Commandant, Gustave Kawell as Junior Vice Commandant, Greg Sumner as Adjutant/Paymaster, Clyde Lemon as Judge Advocate, Eduardo "Eddie" Sanchez as Sergeant-at-Arms, William Sterling as Chaplain, and Tony Poletti serving as Junior Past Commandant.

The Department also extends its sincere appreciation to the outgoing officers, committee chairmen, volunteers, and everyone whose hard work made this year's convention a success. Their dedication ensured a productive and memorable event while continuing the proud traditions of the Marine Corps League.

As another successful convention comes to a close, the Department of Texas looks forward to the year ahead with renewed purpose, strong leadership, and an unwavering commitment to serving Marines, veterans, their families, and our communities.

Semper Fidelis!

2026 Convention





Thanks to All that Attended!

WREATHS *across* AMERICA

REMEMBER ★ HONOR ★ TEACH



HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE.
NEVER FORGET.



Wreaths Across America
is a nationwide mission to
remember our fallen heroes,
honor those who serve,
and teach the next generation
the value of freedom.



SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE.



REMEMBER
Our fallen heroes.



HONOR
Those who serve.



TEACH
The next generation.



MAKE AN IMPACT
Support. Volunteer. Donate.
Every action matters

ONE WREATH ★ ONE HERO ★ ONE NATION



★ *"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude."* ★

Each Memorial Day, we pause as a grateful nation to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in defense of the United States. Their courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to freedom have secured the liberties we enjoy today.

For members of the Marine Corps League, Memorial Day is more than a holiday—it is a solemn reminder of the price paid by generations of Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Guardians, and Coast Guardsmen who answered our nation's call and never returned home.

Across the great State of Texas, Marine Corps League detachments proudly stood alongside their communities by participating in memorial ceremonies, placing flags at veterans' graves, marching in parades, presenting colors, and ensuring that the memory of our fallen heroes continues to live on. These acts of remembrance reflect our League's enduring commitment to preserving the legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

As Marines, we know that freedom has never been free. It has always come at a tremendous cost. Memorial Day challenges each of us to remember not only the names etched on monuments and headstones, but also the families, friends, and communities forever changed by their loss.

May we never forget the courage of those who stood the watch before us. May we honor their legacy through continued service to our fellow veterans, our communities, and our nation.

★ **THEY GAVE THEIR TOMORROW SO WE COULD HAVE TODAY.**
SEMPER FIDELIS ★

★ **DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE ★



ALL GAVE SOME. SOME GAVE ALL.









RED Friday

REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED

Thousands of American service members are deployed around the world, standing watch in defense of our freedoms.

UNTIL THEY ALL
COME HOME,

**WEAR
RED!**



**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.
HONOR THEIR SERVICE.**

Let's show our deployed service members that they are **not forgotten** and that we **appreciate** their sacrifice.

★ HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE ★



WEAR RED

Wear a red shirt every Friday.



SHARE

Share your photos on social media using **#REDFriday** and **#RememberEveryoneDeployed**



ENCOURAGE

Encourage your Detachment, Auxiliary, family, friends, and coworkers to join you.



REMEMBER

Take a moment every Friday to keep our deployed service members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

★ **TOGETHER, WE ENSURE THEY ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN.** ★

Semper Fidelis

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



Supporting Those Who Continue to Stand the Watch



#REDFriday • #RememberEveryoneDeployed







★ CELEBRATE. HONOR. CONNECT. ★

FLEET WEEK



A TRADITION OF SERVICE.
A FUTURE OF STRENGTH.

★ HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE. INSPIRING THOSE WHO FOLLOW. ★

Fleet Week is a time-honored tradition that brings our community together to celebrate the men and women of the sea services—past, present, and future.

From ship tours and community events to parades and performances, Fleet Week offers a unique opportunity to thank our Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen for their dedication, courage, and sacrifice.

The Marine Corps League proudly stands alongside our service members and their families, showing our continued support, friendship, and gratitude.

Join us in welcoming our heroes to Texas and celebrating the spirit of service that keeps our nation strong.



ONE COMMUNITY. ONE MISSION. ONE NATION.

SEMPER FIDELIS

★ DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS



NAVY



MARINES



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

★ 23



COAST GUARD





MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

★ ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE ★

Happy Birthday
JULY

★ MARINES AND FAMILY! ★

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE,
YOUR SACRIFICE, AND YOUR

★ — COMMITMENT! — ★

Happy Birthday
AMERICA

★ 250 YEARS OLD ★

— 1776 ★ 2026 —

LAND OF THE FREE ★ HOME OF THE BRAVE

★ CELEBRATING FREEDOM,
HONOR, AND TRADITION ★



HONOR



COURAGE



COMMITMENT



COUNTRY



BROTHERHOOD

25



Department Website



HiHello V-Card